

Section III – Vermont's Quality Criteria For Resource Management Systems (RMS) and Human Considerations Introduction

Quality Criteria (QC) establishes the minimum treatment level necessary to adequately address the resource concerns that are identified during the planning process for development of a Resource Management System (RMS). The RMS criteria are met when treatment has been planned that, when applied, will resolve all of the identified resource problems according to the Quality Criteria. The RMS will be considered applied when all of the conservation practices that make up the system have been installed according to Conservation Practice Standards in Section IV, VTFOTG.

In some instances, individual decisionmaker action cannot solve an existing conservation problem in accordance with these criteria. In these instances, an opportunity exists for group planning, project measures or multiprogram activities to meet the respective quality criteria. In cases where the decisionmaker cannot solve the problem as an individual, the criteria will be met when the land under the control of the decisionmaker does not adversely contribute to the problem.

The use and implementation of this criteria will be consistent with federal, state, local laws and regulations.

In these instances where management of water is restricted because of policy and laws, such as those pertaining to wetlands, the criteria will be met if policy and laws are followed.

For an Acceptable Management System (AMS) identified by the State Conservationist appropriate Quality Criteria will be developed, approved and documented in Section III, VTFOTG.

Application of RMS Criteria

Additional considerations useful in the RMS planning process include economic, social or cultural resource factors. The differing economic, social or cultural resource situations of a decisionmaker will determine the type and degree of treatment attained at any point in time. Where an RMS is not attainable at the present time, the progressive planning process (the incremental process of building a plan consistent with the decisionmakers ability to plan and implement) may be used to ultimately achieve an RMS. The progression on individual planning units is always toward the planning and implementation of an RMS.

The following guidelines should be applied to determine the practical limits of resource planning in formulating decisions. (Refer to folders: Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animal, Human, Other Applications)